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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Brian Gonsalves, et al.

Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DETECTING COMPUTER PORT INACTIVITY

App. No.: 10/623,274

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M/S AF
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**REMARKS IN SUPPORT OF PRE-APPEAL BRIEF
REQUEST FOR REVIEW**

Dear Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed May 8, 2006 (hereinafter, "the Final Action") and further pursuant to the Notice of Appeal and Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Review submitted herewith, Applicants respectfully request review and reconsideration of the Final Action in view of the following issues.

Claims 1-4, 6, 8-14, 16, 17, 19-26 and 29 are Allowable

The Office has rejected claims 1-4, 6, 8-14, 16, 17, 19-26 and 29, at paragraph 2 of the Final Action, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Cohen (US 6,477,595 B1), in view of Shaffer (US 6,145,083). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

None of the cited references, including Cohen and Shaffer, disclose or suggest the specific combination of Claim 1. As stated by the Office, Cohen does not disclose or suggest blocking logic to selectively initiate a blocking signal to disable communications received from an interface to a wide area network from being sent to an end-user computer over an interface to a local area network, as recited in Claim 1. Likewise, Shaffer does not disclose blocking logic to selectively initiate a blocking signal to disable communications received from an interface to a

wide area network from being sent to an end-user computer over an interface to a local area network, as recited in Claim 1. Shaffer discloses a screen saver that is “configurable with respect to selecting a particular time period, so that the screen saver switches the computing device to a locked mode when the computing device is idle for a period exceeding the preselected period.” (Shaffer, col. 5, ll. 21-25.). Further, Shaffer discloses that “the locked mode inhibits access to user data within the local memory, controls the display at the computer monitor, and restricts communication with the network via the network link.” (Shaffer, col. 5, line 29-31). Thus, Shaffer discloses a screen saver capability that restricts functions *at* the computing device. Shaffer does not disclose initiating a blocking *signal* to disable communications *from being sent* to the end-user computing device *over a local area network connection*. Accordingly, the asserted combination of Cohen and Shaffer fails to teach or suggest each element of Claim 1. Claims 2-4, 6 and 8-9 depend from Claim 1. Hence, the asserted combination of Cohen and Shaffer fails to disclose or suggest at least one element of these claims, at least by virtue of their dependency from Claim 1.

In addition, none of the cited references, including Cohen and Shaffer, disclose or suggest the specific combination of Claim 10. Neither Cohen, nor Shaffer, disclose or suggest a method that includes blocking data originating from a wide area data network connection from being communicated to a local data connection to establish a blocking condition, as recited in Claim 10. As stated previously, Shaffer discloses a screen saver that “switches the computing device to a locked mode” that “inhibits access to user data within the local memory, controls the display at the computer monitor, and restricts communication with the network via the network link.” (Shaffer, col. 5, ll. 21-25, 29-31). Thus, Shaffer discloses a screen saver capability that restricts functions of the computing device. Shaffer does not disclose blocking data originating from a wide area network connection *from being communicated to a local data connection*. Hence, the asserted combination of Cohen and Shaffer fails to disclose or suggest each element of Claim 10. Claims 11-14 and 16-17 depend from Claim 10. Hence, the asserted combination of Cohen and Shaffer fails to disclose or suggest at least one element of these claims, at least by virtue of their dependency from Claim 10.

Further, none of the cited references, including Cohen and Shaffer, disclose or suggest the specific combination of Claim 19. Neither Cohen, nor Shaffer, discloses or suggest a method

that includes, during a first time period of time, blocking data received from the second port of the digital subscriber line routing equipment from being communicated by the first port of the digital subscriber line routing equipment, as recited in Claim 19. As stated previously, Shaffer discloses a screen saver that “switches the computing device to a locked mode” that “inhibits access to user data within the local memory, controls the display at the computer monitor, and restricts communication with the network via the network link.” (Shaffer, col. 5, ll. 21-25, 29-31). Thus, Shaffer discloses a screen saver capability that restricts functions *at the computing device*. Shaffer does not disclose a method of routing data *at digital subscriber line equipment* that includes blocking data from being communicated by a first port of the digital subscriber line routing equipment. Hence, the asserted combination of Cohen and Shaffer fails to teach or suggest each and every element of Claim 19. Claims 20-22 depend from Claim 19. Hence, the asserted combination of Cohen and Shaffer fail to disclose or suggest at least one element of these claims, at least by virtue of their dependency from Claim 19.

Additionally, none of the cited references, including Cohen and Shaffer, disclose or suggest the specific combinations of Claim 23 and Claim 26. Neither Cohen, nor Shaffer, disclose or suggest blocking logic to selectively initiate a blocking signal to selectively disable communications from being sent over a first interface to a local area network connection to at least one of a plurality of end-user computers in the local area network while allowing communications to be sent over the first interface to at least one other of the plurality of end-user computers in the local area network, as recited in Claim 23. Additionally, neither Cohen, nor Shaffer, disclose or suggest selectively blocking data originating from a wide area network data connection from being communicated to one or more of a plurality of inactive end-user computers while allowing data originating from the wide area network data connection to be communicated to at least one of the plurality of the end-user computers that remains in an active state, as recited in Claim 26. As stated previously, Shaffer discloses a screen saver that “switches the computing device to a locked mode” that “inhibits access to user data within the local memory, controls the display at the computer monitor, and restricts communication with the network via the network link.” (Shaffer, col. 5, ll. 21-25, 29-31). Thus, Shaffer discloses a screen saver capability that restricts functions at a *single* computing device. Shaffer does not disclose initiating a blocking *signal* or disabling communications *from being sent* to at least one of a plurality of end-user computing devices. Moreover, Shaffer does not disclose or suggest

that its screen saver capability can allow communications to be sent to at least one other of the plurality of end-user computers, as recited in claims 23 and 26. Accordingly, the asserted combination of Cohen and Shaffer fails to teach or suggest each element of claims 23 and 26. Claims 24-25 depend from Claim 23. Claim 29 depends from Claim 26. Hence, the asserted combination of Cohen and Shaffer fails to disclose or suggest at least one element of these claims, at least by virtue of their dependency from claims 23 and 26.

Claims 5, 18 and 27-28 are Allowable

The Office has rejected claims 5, 18 and 27-28, at paragraph 3 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Cohen (US 6,477,595 B1), in view of Shaffer (US 6,145,083), and in view of Evans (US 6,807,666). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Claims 5, 18, and 27-28 depend from Claims 1, 10 and 26, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Evans does not disclose or suggest the elements of Claims 1, 10 and 26, which are not disclosed or suggested by Cohen and Shaffer. Thus, Claims 5, 18, and 27-28 are allowable, at least by virtue of their dependency from Claims 1, 10 and 26.

Additionally, none of the cited references, including Cohen, Shaffer and Evans, disclose or suggest the specific combination of Claim 5. Evans teaches a user configurable period of inactivity after which the user's computer switches to a logon screen. (Evans, col. 5, line 31-34). Evans does not teach a user configurable period of inactivity after which blocking logic initiates a blocking signal to disable communications from being sent over an interface to a local area network connection to the end-user computer, as recited in Claims 1, 2 and 5. Thus, the asserted combination of Cohen, Shaffer and Evans fails to disclose or suggest each element of Claim 5.

Further, none of the cited references, including Cohen, Shaffer and Evans, disclose or suggest the specific combination of Claim 18. Evans teaches a user configurable period of inactivity after which the user's computer switches to a logon screen. (Evans, col. 5, line 31-34). Evans does not teach receiving user defined idle time information and modifying an idle time inactivity threshold after which a blocking signal is initiated to disable communications from being sent to the end-user computer, as recited in Claims 10, 17 and 18. Hence, the asserted combination of Cohen, Shaffer and Evans fails to disclose or suggest each element of Claim 18.

In addition, none of the cited references, including Cohen, Shaffer and Evans, disclose or suggest the specific combinations of claims 27-28. Evans teaches a single computer shared by multiple users that switches to a logon screen after a period of inactivity. (Evans, col. 5, line 31-34, 59-60). Evans does not disclose or suggest detecting resumed activity from one or more of a plurality of end-user computers or allowing communications to be sent to one or more of the plurality of end-user computers previously in an inactive state, as recited in claims 27 and 28. Thus, the asserted combination of Cohen, Shaffer and Evans fails to disclose or suggest each element of claims 27-28.

Claims 7, 15 and 30 are Allowable

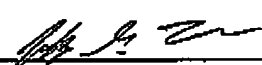
The Office has rejected claims 7, 15 and 30, at paragraph 4 of the Office Action, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Cohen (US 6,477,595 B1), in view of Shaffer (US 6,145,083), and in view of Gerszberg (US 6,510,152 B1). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Claims 7, 15, and 30 depend from Claims 1, 10 and 26, which Applicants have shown to be allowable. Gerszberg does not disclose or suggest the elements of Claims 1, 10 and 26, which are not disclosed or suggested by Cohen and Shaffer. Thus, Claims 7, 15, and 30 are allowable, at least by virtue of their dependency from Claims 1, 10 and 26.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are allowable. Applicants therefore request withdrawal of all pending rejections.

Respectfully submitted,

7-17-2006
Date


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